

Appl. No.: 10/771,798
Amdt. dated 09/09/2004
Reply to Official Action of August 2, 2004

REMARKS

The claims of the present application currently stand restricted between Group I, namely Claims 1-13, and Group II, namely Claims 14-25. Applicants initially note with appreciation the Examiner taking the time to conduct a telephone interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney regarding the restriction requirement. During that telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that Applicants could overcome the restriction requirement if dependent claims corresponding to Claims 15-20 of Group II were added to the claims of Group I. Therefore, in response to the restriction requirement, Applicants have added dependent Claims 25-31. Per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants note that dependent Claims 25-31, all of which depend from independent Claim 1 of Group I, correspond to Claims 15-20, respectively, of Group II. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is overcome, and that all of the pending claims are in condition for examination. However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction of the claims despite the addition of dependent Claims 25-31, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-13) and expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

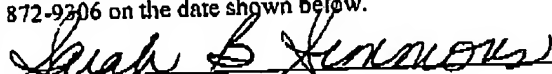


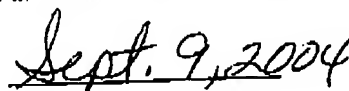
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.


 Sarah B. Simmons


 Date